UC-AFT Gears Up for Lecturer and Librarian Bargaining this Spring

By Mike Rotkin, President, UC-AFT Local 2199 at UCSC

We are now getting into bargaining season, and no doubt there is some stormy weather ahead. On February 28, we had our first Lecturer (Unit 18) bargaining session and Librarian bargaining is set to begin in May.

The Lecturer unit's current contract expires on July 31st. Of major concern to the Lecturers are issues related to job security, workload, upcoming changes to summer session, proposals for an increase in on-line instruction, and some benefit fixes for some more than half-time lecturers who are still denied benefit coverage. We are also seeking small pay increases to cover the recent decrease in take home pay that resulted from increased benefit contributions for our members. Both parties are also working to clear up some ambiguities in the existing contract that will, no doubt, benefit everyone.

The Librarian unit will be bargaining over salary issues. For years now the UC Administration has denied long-overdue pay increases for UC Librarians who now lag over 20-25% behind comparable positions in the CSU system and behind most comparable community college librarians. There is clear evidence that on almost every UC campus there are problems, even in this great recession, in hiring new Librarians at appropriate levels in the Librarian series and that workload problems are being exacerbated for the remaining Librarians and the faculty and students whom they serve. UC research libraries have been falling in relative standing compared to other nationally recognized research libraries because not just Librarians, but libraries are being starved for resources.

With respect to both units, the indications are that the Administration's initial approach is to hope that the current deep recession/depression will have disciplined our members to accept less compensation and weaker security provisions than we deserve and that the institution, itself, needs to provide if it wants to continue to offer quality education, research, and public service to the State of California and its residents. We continue to believe that UC has more than enough funding to meet the very modest demands of our members and that the problem is not essentially a lack of resources (despite the State budget cutback of a half-billion dollars) but bad priorities that expend limited funds on obscene compensation packages for top executives and on other misplaced priorities.

Both units will be making spirited presentations at the bargaining table, but we hope that our members understand that, ultimately, what we can win at the bargaining table depends less upon the power of our argument and the factual information that we will be presenting than it does upon the sense of solidarity and commitment evidenced by our members in actions on the campuses throughout the system.

Consequently, the UC-AFT and its leaders and staff will be working hard to help coordinate the work done by our two bargaining teams with a series of campus actions and new educational materials for the campuses and the general public about the crisis of priorities at UC. March appears to have come in like a lion, but we cannot afford to have it go out like a lamb. Get ready for rough weather.

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Local 2199 Spring Newsletter

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

The Classroom and Beyond

From Gold Life Master of bridge to Neo-Benshi performance to Restorative Justice Circles: Find out what some of your fellow UC-AFT Members are up to.

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Free Education

On March 1st, students and faculty gathered for Free Education, a peaceful demonstration described by organizer Noah Miska as "an afternoon for free discussions, free literature, free creativity, and free evidence that public education at all levels can, and should, be free(d)." Hundreds of students spelled out "Free Education" with their bodies on the East Field in order to express the idea that universal access to quality education is an essential component of a just world, and that they are committed to achieving it through non-violent action. An airplane flew over the field to photograph the students, and afterwards participants dispersed into groups to discuss topics such as the history of activism and "corporate personhood." With a free bookstore, an area for students to paint and create music, and various posters asking questions like "What is money?" all over the field, it is clear that Free Education is not only a manifestation of the hunger for change UC students feel, but is a symbol of the fact that from Egypt to Wisconsin, youth are ready to fight for social justice.

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff also rallied on March 2nd as part of a national day to defend public education. Following the rally students organized a sit-in in the Baytree Center to demand an expansion of the Ethnic Resource Center, no further cuts to academics and employee

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Representing Non-Senate Faculty and Librarians of the University of California

Meet Your Representative Collective

Back Row: David Keenan (Grievance Chair), Guilia Centineo, Stephen Sweat, Stephen Peterson (Webmaster/Treasurer), Mike Rotkin (President), Annapurna Pandey, María Morris (Membership Chair) Front Row: Candace Calsoyas (Convener), Ken Lyons (Unit 17 Rep) | Not Pictured: Byron Barahona

Members of the newly elected Local 2199 Representative Collective are eager to lead our union through contract negotiations for both units this year, as well as in organizing around UC budget and benefits issues. We are fortunate to have wisdom and experience from longtime union leaders as well as new energy and ideas from more recent union activists. They look forward to galvanizing the collective strength and involvement of our members, and hope to hear from you at an upcoming union meeting.

After many years of dedicated service, Tim Fitzmaurice has stepped down as Grievance Chair. Tim helped members in every division throughout campus, and our union is indebted to him for his strength and solidarity. Language Program Lecturer David Keenan has stepped into Tim's role, and is available to assist members who are facing problems and contract violations on the job. He can be reached at: dlkeenan@gmail.com.

Attention Lecturers: PDF Grants Available

The deadline for NSF Professional Development Grants was extended until

March 25th, 2011

Funds are available for teaching-related

*Workshops * Exhibits * Conferences
* Projects * Books * Travel Expenses *

76 individual PDF grants totaling $73,000 have been awarded in the past 3 academic years!

Grant Guidelines and Applications available at: www.ucsc.ucaft.org

Questions? Contact NSF PDF Council Chair Benjamin Lozano at: blozano@ucsc.edu

aft UNIVERSITY COUNCIL Spring 2011

UC-AFT Member Spotlight

In addition to teaching at UC Santa Cruz, many AFT members are making substantial contributions to UCSC and Santa Cruz County as a whole. Take a look!

Christine King

Aside from teaching Transformative Action at UC Santa Cruz and Mindful Communication at Stanford University, **Christine King** has been a leader in the world of Nonviolent Communication and Restorative Justice for over a decade. A strong believer in communication at the collective level rather than at the individual level, Christine has helped the Center for Nonviolent Communication reach out to more than thirty service organizations, including schools, religious institutions and non-profits. In addition to her passion for Nonviolent Communication, Christine also facilitates various Restorative Justice Circles which help to empower individuals to consciously resolve conflicts, volunteers at the San Quentin State Prison and is an avid swimmer. After asking what has kept her so passionate about her work, she responded by saying, "In the work I do, I live my values". In April, Christine will be leading a retreat for women that will combine Nonviolent Communication with the teachings of Buddhism.

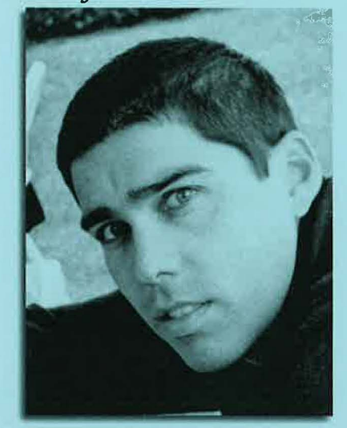
Candace Calsoyas

Writer, teacher, farmer and traveler, AFT member **Candace Calsoyas** is a multi-passionate innovator in the world of farming and academia. Running her own organic Christmas tree farm here in Santa Cruz County and thinking about her own connection to nature, Calsoyas wrote a dissertation on women's empowerment in relation to land and farming. In 2009, she received a Fulbright Scholarship and traveled to Albania to teach United States History through an environmental lens. She is currently proposing an Environmental Literature class to the ENVS department at UCSC, and plans on teaching it this summer. Land being one of the main stabilizing forces in her life, Calsoyas has published numerous articles on sustainable tree farming, and is currently applying for another Fulbright grant in order to take her organic farming knowledge around the world.

Frank Bauerle

Frank Bauerle has been teaching mathematics at UC Santa Cruz for seventeen years, and is an active NSTF representative on the Committee of Preparatory Education. He is also currently involved with a number of his colleagues at UCSC and other regional universities and colleges to secure a Gates Foundation Next Generation Learning Grant, which will improve outcomes in introductory mathematics courses. In addition, he works closely with the K-12 community by teaching COSMOS, a summer program at UCSC for high school students who are passionate about math and science. As a teacher who cares deeply about engaging students of all ages in the math and science disciplines, he has also taught academic enrichment classes to fifth graders at San Lorenzo Elementary School.

Benjamin Lozano



In addition to having taught in the Legal Studies, Politics and American Studies departments at UCSC, **Benjamin Lozano** works with The Bruce Center for Rethinking Capitalism, which focuses on the development of critical ideas in finance and the political economy. He is deeply passionate about educating the community about the basic structural changes that have affected capitalism, and is currently the curriculum coordinator for Rethinking Capitalism meetings, which are held once a week. Lozano says that he "spend[s] a lot of time researching the political expedience and relevance of what [he] is doing" in relation to both his teaching and involvement in Rethinking Capitalism, and makes a point of "asking basic questions that are relevant to capitalism." Lozano is also chairing this year's NSF Council on Professional Development, which administers grants supporting the professional development of lecturers and the improvement of education in UCSC classrooms.

Drew Todd

Drew Todd has been a lecturer in the Film and Digital Media Department at UCSC since 2001. Currently Todd is working on an article about the movies of award-winning Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray. Todd is also developing an article on the surrealist film director Luis Buñuel's *Susana*, focusing on his use of windows to alter reality. This summer Todd will be teaching Italian cinema in Rome with a group of San Jose State University students. Part of his time spent away from academia is in the Sierra Nevada mountain range hiking and camping with his wife and son. Todd also considers himself an avid bridge player, having achieved the rank of Gold Life Master. Of the 14 levels in the bridge masters program, Todd is the fourth highest.

Leslie Lopez

Leslie Lopez has taught in LALS, American Studies, Kresge and Oakes Core, and the Writing Program, and has worked closely with student media projects including KZSC Radio, Border Stompers, Banana Slug News, and TWANAS. In 2008, Lopez finished her PhD in Anthropology, and is now leading an exciting town-gown program as the Program Director for Corre la Voz, an afterschool program through UC Links. This program places undergrads at Mission Hill and Bay View schools where they work on creative digital media projects to develop Latino(a) student's proficiency in English. Lopez is also the Program Coordinator for SCWIBLES (Santa Cruz – Watsonville Inquiry-Based Learning in Environmental Sciences). This program awards year-long fellowships to UCSC graduate students to develop and implement hands-on science education in Watsonville High School, while simultaneously continuing their own research and studies. In her own scholarly work, Lopez is currently working on a conference paper based on her dissertation, entitled, "Salugos en el Crucero: Civil Speech Makes Civil Society."

Roxanne Power Hamilton

Writing Program Instructor **Roxi Power Hamilton** uses her work to cross between artistic borders, bridging politics, art, theater, and writing. In addition to teaching, Hamilton is currently working on *Viz*, a trans-genre anthology consisting of prose, poetry, writings, and collages. This first publication was released in May of 2007, and was awarded a medal in the anthology category by the Independent Publisher. A second magazine of the series is set to be released focusing on the use of art in interventionist settings. For more information check out www.viz.ucsc.edu. Hamilton has also been involved in the practice of 'Neo-Benshi,' producing a live, alternate voice-over during a muted film. The word Benshi comes from Japan, and refers to the orator, or 'interpreter' who performs a live narrative accompaniment to a silent movie. Hamilton has done Neo-Benshi at the Disney Theatre, and plans on performing through A Streetcar Named Desire, at the Centennial of Tennessee Williams' birth.

Susan Friedman

Filmmaker, Photographer and Art Instructor **Susan Friedman** finished a feature length film for PBS in 2007 entitled "What's Up in the Universe," a film that looks at the human need to explore beginning with Polynesian wayfinding through our search for distant habitable planets and is a dialogue between Art and Science. In 2010 Friedman made a video installation entitled "Drinkers of the Wind," which focuses on the study of motion of horses through the deconstruction of time. Two of her previous students at UCSC, Charley Weston, and Dean Snodgrass provided the editing with cinematography by Ray Day. Friedman has had a lifelong passion for horses, one time even rescuing a racehorse from the track. Growing up in Rochester, New York, she was the only Jewish girl to ride horses when she was little. She is currently envisioning her next project, a video installation piece that looks at the hustle and bustle at the horse track comparing both the early morning hours of preparation with the afternoon hours of betting and races. To check out more works by Susan, check out her website at www.susanfriedmanphoto.com and whatsupintheuniverse.org.

Angela Elsey

French Language Lecturer **Angela Elsey** recently returned from her second trip to Africa, the first of which was sponsored by a combination of grants from the French Consulate and Center for Teaching at UC. This return trip was partly funded by a NSF Professional Development Grant, and gave her the opportunity to see how both social and political systems work in Senegal. Outside of academia, Elsey has been dancing since she was a kid, and performing vintage dances for about twenty years. She and her husband are alumni of Danse Libre, a group specializing in 'the lively exhibition of vintage social dances' (www.danselibre.org). She was recently featured in 'Cancan!' a book by David Price, in which she is reenacting the Cancan Quadrille in 19th Century attire.